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Mongol Horde and Russia Today

The history of the "Tatar-Mongol yoke" remains important for understanding trends in Russia's development, as it determined the direction of the country's development for many centuries. However, to this day, despite a huge amount of research and archaeological finds, there are simply no clear answers or definitive conclusions.

The reliability of many sources, chronicles, and historical documents is quite questionable, as the chronicles were not historical documents but literary works. Many chronicles were created much later than the events themselves and often contradict each other, as they reflected the subjective opinions of the chroniclers.

The assessments of modern researchers are no less contradictory. Some insist on the existence of the Tatar-Mongol invasion, while others say it did not happen:

In modern Mongolia, there is not a single document that says that this country once conquered almost all of Eurasia in ancient times, just as there is nothing about the great conqueror Genghis Khan...

The Secret History of the Mongols, compiled in 1240, makes no mention of the Mongol conquest of Rus.

The painting depicts battles between Russian troops and Tatars in the Middle Ages. Dmitry Donskoy's army and Mamai's army fight under the same banners of Christ the Savior. Both sides have the same European faces, weapons, and banners. The Tale of Mamai's Battle mentions the gods worshipped by the Tatars. Among them are the Slavic pagan gods Perun, Khors, and Rekliy.

Did Russians fight Russians?

In medieval illustrations and engravings, the "Tatar-Mongols" are depicted as Europeans.

The Persian historian Rashid-ad-Din, a contemporary of those events, wrote that the

children of Genghis Khan's family "were mostly born with gray eyes and blond hair." Lev Gumilev, a well-known historian, wrote about Genghis Khan: "Historical documents describe him as a tall warrior with blue eyes, very fair skin, reddish hair, and a thick beard. Batu Khan was fair-haired, fair-bearded, and fair-eyed."

According to descriptions by his contemporaries, Mamai had blond hair and blue eyes, and he stood out among his peers for his tall stature and strong build. Tall blond Mongols? The Mongols were short.

The "conquerors of Rus" bore the names of Russian pagans: Bayan, Temuchin-Chemuchin (Tamerlane), Batu, Berke, Sebedai, Ugedei-Ugai, Mamai, Chagatai-Chagadai, Borodai-Borondai. These are ancient Scythian names. The Scythians were distant ancestors of the Rus.

At the same time, no modern researcher says who the leaders of the Tatar-Mongols were, Mongols or Russians. Why?

Who is to blame for the fact that during the violent Christianization and invasion of the Horde, Rus was completely ravaged, lost two-thirds of its population, an "iron curtain" was created, and, as a result, Russia lagged behind Europe for several centuries? The Mongols?

"If you remove all the lies from history, it does not mean that only the truth will remain. As a result, there may be nothing left at all." Polish

Mongolian DNA

The period of Mongol-Tatar rule lasted 240 years. Such a long influence was bound to leave a significant mark on the gene pool of the conquered people.

K.G. Skryabin, academician of the Russian Academy of Sciences: "We have not found any Tatar contributions in the Russian genome, which refutes the theory of the Mongol-Tatar yoke."

Anthropological studies of burial grounds from the 13th to 15th centuries have shown that there was no Mongoloid element in Rus. No Mongoloid skulls were found in the Norvgorod, Kiev, Vladimir-Suzdal, or Ryazan lands of that era.

Why?

The population of Rus during the time of the Horde had no contact with the Mongols. The Horde's garrisons were located outside Russian lands and in their capital, Sarai. Ordinary Russian people hardly ever saw Mongols during the time of the Horde's rule. For them, the "yoke" was not Mongolian, but Russian, since they only saw Russian warriors collecting taxes for the Tatar Horde. This explains the complete absence of Mongolian DNA in the gene pool of the conquered people.

The term "Tatar-Mongol yoke" appeared only in the 18th century; before that, the Slavs did not even suspect that they were living

under the oppression and yoke of some conquerors.

Before the arrival of the Horde, during the time of Christianization, Rus had been living in a state of permanent civil war for several centuries. Communal, pagan Rus, with its many tribes and peoples, with their own languages and beliefs, fiercely resisted the new foreign religion brought from Byzantium.

The Horde brought to Rus a centralized vertical power structure based on the principle of autocracy, the autocratic dictatorship of the head of state. The ancient communal way of life with its democracy was destroyed.

Unlike princely armies, nomadic Mongol tribes did not plunder the conquered peoples; they merely collected tribute and did not interfere in the internal affairs of the subordinate provinces. Vertical power in the Horde, with its military discipline and single command, was a necessity during wartime. As in Europe, where countries engaged in

constant warfare created a vertical power structure, autocratic power. Democracy arose only during times of stable peace.

The Russian Empire, however, was at war with external and internal enemies at all times. Democracy, based on compromise, was alien to the Russian consciousness. Uncompromisingness is a fundamental feature of the Russian mentality. "There can be only one truth. Russian Truth." "He who is not with us is against us."

Before the Horde, all major Russian cities had veche assemblies and elected officials, but these were abolished under Horde rule. All decisions were made by the head of state—the tsar, the khan, the autocrat. Continuing the Horde tradition, Stalin became an autocrat who made decisions single-handedly.

There were autocratic rulers in Europe too, but autocratic despotism did not take root there, as kings were completely dependent on their nobility.

European states were historically formed through complex compromises that united the interests of various social groups. Russia, following the Horde as a model of state , was formed on the principle of absolute power of the ruler.
The interests of various elites, ethnic groups, and political forces were not only disregarded but also viewed as enemies of the regime and foreign agents.

In Europe, nations were formed on the principle of one language and one culture! The Russian ethnic group, however, was multinational - Mer, Chud, Bashkirs, Tatars, Tuvans, hundreds of tribes and nationalities! Each nationality lived in isolation, closed in on itself. Opposing themselves to others and hating others.

"Every 'le russe' hates everyone else as much as everyone else hates him." *Nadezhda Teffi, writer (1872-1952)*
"We can be praised for one thing—that there are many of us: we will not eat each other anytime soon.” Slavophile, writer Leskov.

"The innate quality of Muscovites is to feel hatred for one another..." A. Schlichting.

The hostility ceased only when the authorities found an external or internal enemy (often mythical) against whom everyone was forced to unite. The idea of the existence of an eternal external enemy naturally led to the complete isolation of Russia from the Western world. Only during the reign of the Romanovs were contacts with Europe restored.

True, only partially. St. Petersburg became not a "window" but a skylight to Europe. It was the only European city in Russia. Foreigners were not only forbidden to settle in any part of the country except Moscow and St. Petersburg. In Moscow, foreigners could only live in the German Quarter. They were forbidden to travel around the country as they were considered potential spies. They could solve the "Russian Riddle."

The solution was not to be found in the specifics of Russian politics, economics, or culture. It was in the mentality of the people, in their acceptance of contradictory ideas as

a whole. On the one hand, "The main thing is that there be no war." On the other hand, the people's dream of a great Russia, bringing "Russian Truth" to the world "by fire and sword."

"Russia cannot be understood with the mind, one can only believe in Russia." Fyodor Tyutchev

The entire history of Russia is one of endless wars with its neighbors. Europeans were proud of what they had created. Russians were proud of what they had destroyed. They were willing to live in poverty for the sake of the great military victories of Great Russia.

A just or unjust war ultimately always ends in plunder, both of one's own and others'.

Before the idea of Russia as an empire emerged, Russian militias, together with the Mongols, plundered European countries.

Russian warriors outnumbered Batu's main Mongol armies during their campaign in Central Europe (1240–1242).

They plundered Poland, Hungary, and Lithuania both independently and as part of the Horde's troops in the 13th–14th

centuries. They were not forcibly mobilized. Russian druzhinas hoped to profit from the military campaign in Europe, hoping for rich trophies.

After the Horde left, Muscovy moved from plundering to seizing territories. In the 15th century, the Moscow principality had a population of one and a half million people. In the 16th century, it was just over two million. In the 17th century, it was three and a half million. In the 18th century, 111 million people lived on the territory of Russia.

Ultra-patriot: "The annexation of new lands to Russia was, as a rule, peaceful and bloodless, by mutual agreement. Russia's humanism consisted in the fact that it never attacked but only defended itself."

By waging only defensive wars, Russia was unable to expand its borders to 1/6 of the landmass. The conquest of the Caucasus, the conquest of Siberia... and so on.

Russian General Kuropatkin wrote in his memorandum to the tsar in 1900: "...over the

previous 200 years, Russia was at war for 128 years. Of those 128 years of war, 5 were defensive wars and 123 were wars of conquest."

General A.P. Ermolov wrote: "Among peoples hardened by ignorance, alien to common concepts, the first law is force. Only the fear of weapons can keep them in submission."

Arakcheev's military settlements were an experiment (albeit an unsuccessful one) to turn society into a huge barracks.

The army in Russia has always been perceived as the highest caste and was, in many ways, a model for society. The "Autocrat of All Russia" himself, Nicholas II, wore a soldier's shirt.

The goal of industrialization in the 1920s and 1930s was to create a huge military complex in preparation for total war with the West.

Russia has always taken the position: "We need peace, preferably the whole world!"
Putin: "Russia's borders end NOWHERE!"

Russia has always strived to become the largest empire in the world. And this was not a desire to strengthen its economic power by developing vast territories, building roads, and economic infrastructure — none of this mattered to the authorities. It was a desire to become the world's hegemon and dictate its policies on the global stage. It was the chimera of all the rulers of one of the most backward countries in the world.

This chimera of world domination was shared by Tsarist Russia, the Soviet regime, and Putin's regime. It was not only the authorities who shared this chimera, but also the Russian people themselves, who lent their shoulders to the realization of the idea of world domination.

"The Russian people are obsessed with false ideas, a mania for greatness, and a mania for hostility towards everyone and everything. It seems to them that all their neighbors are offending them, do not sufficiently revere their greatness, and are plotting against

them in every way..." Philosopher Vladimir Solovyov (1853-1900)

In the Russian imperial consciousness, the people conquered by the empire never had the right to leave Russian subjectship, as the conquest expressed the will of the conquered people. Attempts to leave the empire were considered anti-popular and were subjected to severe repression. In ancient Russian documents, attempts to leave the tsar's rule were considered "theft." In Soviet times, Hungary, Czechoslovakia, and Poland, which rebelled against Soviet despotism, were also "thieves."

The rulers, like the people of Russia, saw Russia as the center of the world. From a sane point of view, this idea is insane, paranoid.

After talking with Stalin, Bekhterev called him paranoid. In Bekhterev's eyes, Stalin's idea of building the most just society through mass violence was delusional. But this was

not the idea of an individual, but of the society that Stalin represented.

Stalin's repressions were not the fulfillment of one man's will. Without mass support, the idea of mass terror was doomed. Stalin merely created an organized structure for mass expression of will, in which all the boundless malice that had accumulated in society after the civil war, collectivization, and industrialization, with millions of victims, spilled over to the surface.

Stalin's repressions were not an anomaly. Terror, at all times, was the main means of governing the country. Violent baptism, the Horde's yoke, the atrocities of Ivan the Terrible's oprichniki, and the reforms of Peter I. Generation after generation grew up in an atmosphere of constant fear. Fear gave rise to an inferiority complex and a mania for greatness as compensation.

The struggle against the country's internal enemies justified the endless martyrdom of

the victims of the tsarist, Bolshevik, and Putin regimes.

"Russia... colonized its own people." Alexander Etkind

They colonize not their own but others. For the imperial power, the "others" were the Russian people.

The authorities always saw their own people as subjugated natives. Soviet collectivization in a country where the rural population constituted an overwhelming majority—80%—was a war against the "natives" who resisted the conquerors.

Since the days of Muscovy, the country had been living like the Horde, with all its randomness. It wasn't just the government being random, but everyday life too, where relationships were built on mistrust, contempt, and putting each other down.

The Mongol khans demanded that their Russian vassals, who came to Sarai for letters of appointment to the throne, crawl to the throne on their knees and lick the boots of

their benefactor. The Russian princes, in turn, also humiliated their subjects, forcing them to crawl in the mud to confirm their absolute submission.

When the ruler's motorcade moved through Moscow, all movement in the city stopped. It was a demonstration of absolute power and contempt for the natives.

Stalin forced his associates, who had become fat from gluttony, drunkenness, and idleness, to dance the lezginka to prove their loyalty. He despised them as he despised the whole country that idolized him and died of fear.

"Russians are a people who hate freedom, idolize slavery, and love their bloody despots..." - Slavophile I.S. Shmelev

"Russia cannot be understood with the mind; one can only believe in Russia." Fyodor Tyutchev

The chief of police, Benckendorff, issued a directive to historians: "Russia's past was remarkable, its present is more than magnificent, and as for its future, it is beyond

anything that even the boldest imagination could conceive."

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A.S. Pushkin, who wrote the famous aphorism in a letter to P.Y. Chaadaev: "The government is, after all, the only European in Russia."

"The main feature of the Russian national character is cruelty, and sadistic cruelty at that. I am not talking about isolated outbreaks of cruelty, but about the psyche, about the soul of the people. In 1917-1919, peasants buried captured Red Guards upside down so deep that only the victims' feet stuck out of the ground. The Red Guards, in turn, skinned living prisoners of Denikin's forces, hammered nails into their heads, and cut the skin on their shoulders like officers' epaulettes. Who was more cruel: the Whites or the Reds? Probably both equally, since both were Russians." Maxim Gorky.

During all the years of Horde rule, there was not a single uprising against the Horde; only hunger riots broke out against the abuses of Russian princes who collected predatory tribute for themselves in addition to the Horde tribute.

"The law is written for the subjects, not for the state." Chief of the Gendarmerie Department, Benkeldorf.